

CROSSSECTION



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Wild Winter Weather</i>	1
<i>Where the Water Meets the Land</i>	2
<i>Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program</i>	2
<i>Plants for Your Backyard Stream</i>	3
<i>From the Farmer, to Your Table</i>	4

WILD WINTER WEATHER

While we are used to cold, snowy winters in Lake County, this winter has been especially trying. The extreme cold and snow have kept many adults and children home from work and school. Despite the challenges of the past couple months, we have been introduced to some intriguing weather and weather-related phenomena.

SNOW ROLLERS

These doughnut-shaped snow formations are rare. They are created by highly specific wind, snow and temperature conditions. For a snow roller to form first there must be an icy layer of snow covered by a layer of light "sticky" snow. Next, strong winds blow along the ground causing these snowflakes to loosely clump together until they form a snowball or snow cylinder. As long as the wind continues to blow in the same direction the snow roller will continue to grow as it moves along the ground, picking up more sticky snow. Snow rollers stop forming when they become too heavy for the wind to continue pushing them. Since the snow in the middle of the snow roller is lighter and less tightly packed it often blows away or falls out of the middle creating the doughnut shape.



Snow rollers

FROST QUAKES

The polar vortex, which peaked on January 7th, 2014, brought with it near record breaking cold temperatures. It also incited frost quakes or cryoseism events. While rare in northeast Ohio, frost quakes are not uncommon in colder climates. Frost quakes start when frozen soil or rock becomes saturated with water. When the water freezes due to a sudden drop in temperature the water expands. This puts stress of the surrounding frozen soil or rock. Stress builds up until relieved explosively in the form of a frost quake.

Spring will be here before we all know it, but in the meantime strap on your skis, snowshoes or warm winter boots and enjoy all this season has to offer!

WINTER WATER QUALITY TIPS

- 1) Don't over salt
- 2) Pick up that dog poo
- 3) Take your car to the car wash

ORDER YOUR TREES NOW! 2014 CONSERVATION TREE SEEDLING SALE IS ACCEPTING ORDERS THROUGH FEBRUARY 21ST!

Single species packets of White pine, Eastern red cedar, Black willow, Swamp white oak, River birch, Sugar maple are available in quantities of 10, 25 and 50. Mixed-species packets containing 9 total trees of 3 species, are available in Native Fruit, 4 Seasons of Interest, and Pond and Stream.

For packet descriptions or an order from please visit
www.lakecountyohio.gov/soil



Lake County Soil & Water
Conservation District

CONSERVATION
TREE
SEEDLING
SALE

WHERE THE WATER MEETS THE LAND: RIPARIAN SETBACKS AND WHY THEY MATTER

NICK AGINS, RESOURCE PROTECTION TECHNICIAN



A well vegetated stream

If you live in Lake County you see riparian areas every day. The creek that runs through your backyard, the bridge over the Grand or Chagrin River on your way to work, the springtime flooded area in your local river-adjacent park: all of these areas are riparian. A riparian area is the naturally vegetated land that runs along the course of a waterway or wetland. Ideally, this waterway-adjacent area is left undisturbed and vegetated with native plants. This ideal situation is not always the reality.

Disturbed river and stream banks result in increased erosion, pollution and flooding. To combat these issues, engineered structures are sometimes installed to act in place of nature, but at a high cost and with only partial effectiveness. In contrast, a well vegetated stream or riverbank limits erosion, reduces floodwater velocity, helps filter pollutants and lowers water temperature.

For these reasons, many communities implement riparian setback ordinances. Riparian setbacks act as an important, low-cost tool for community managers to achieve reasonable protection of waterways, and aid in stormwater management. Most ordinances prevent unauthorized building of structures, and other soil disturbing activities, within a specified distance from the stream or riverbank. Communities in Lake County which currently utilize riparian setback ordinances are: Kirtland, Waite Hill, Madison Township, Leroy Township and Mentor-on-the-Lake.

It's important to know that having riparian setback ordinances in your community and ultimately on land you own, doesn't forbid you from entering onto or maintaining these areas. These ordinances are only meant to prohibit certain soil disturbing activities. Installing a pervious material bike path, maintaining dying trees, and hunting are examples of several, actions that landowners can take within riparian setback distances.

You don't need a riparian setback ordinance in your community to increase property value, and decrease flooding and erosion frustration on your streamside property. You can be proactive by voluntarily reducing soil disturbing activities and increasing native vegetation. For more information visit www.lakecountyohio.gov/soil or call or visit the Lake SWCD office.



A stream-adjacent disturbed site

LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM

MAURINE ORNDORFF, WATERSHED COORDINATOR

Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District has been selected by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) among 17 land trusts, counties and soil and water conservation districts to receive funding to help preserve farmland across the state. Each organization will receive an allocation from the Clean Ohio Fund to manage the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP).

The local sponsors have been certified to accept applications from landowners in 46 counties. A total of \$6 million will be made available in this 2014 funding round. The funding can leverage an estimated \$18 million from the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program for a total of \$24 million. Lake SWCD will accept on-line applications from landowners who are interested in selling an agricultural easement to ODA until April 1, 2014.

The program allows landowners to voluntarily sell easements on their farms to the State of Ohio. The easement requires the farm to remain permanently in agricultural production. Selected farms must be more than 40 acres, actively engaged in farming, participate in the Current Agricultural Use Valuation program, demonstrate good stewardship of the land, have support from local government and not be in close proximity to development. Landowners may use the proceeds of the easement in any way they wish, but most reinvest it in their farm operation. A new small farm exception will enable landowners with less than 40 acres to apply if they are adjacent to other permanently protected properties.

Funding for the program is derived from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, approved by voters in 2008, and used to purchase agricultural easements from willing sellers through a competitive process. When combined with easements from all programs, 303 family farms in 48 counties have collectively preserved 52,662 acres in agricultural production.

For more information contact Maurine Orndorff at the District office, or visit

<http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FarmLand/FarmLand.aspx>.

PLANTS FOR YOUR BACKYARD STREAM

NATALIE GERTZ-YOUNG EDUCATION/INFORMATION COORDINATOR

While having a backyard stream can be beautiful and relaxing, if it is not properly maintained or if it is over developed it can be a cause for concern. One of the simplest ways to improve your backyard stream is by planting native plants. Clearing all of the vegetation on the edge of a stream and planting cool season grass, like Kentucky bluegrass, may make your lawn larger, but it also increases erosion, pollution and likelihood of flooding.

Many stream restorations effectively stabilize a stream bank with one or 2 species but they do not take aesthetics into consideration. Using a variety of native plants chosen not only for their stabilizing roots and water holding capacity, but also for their visual interest and value to wildlife can make a lovely landscape. In the sample 1/3 acre plan below 11 species are used. Each was chosen for practical and aesthetic reasons.

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)—large shade tree, prefers wet soil. It is fast growing, holds a tremendous amount of stormwater and has decorative peely bark. *

River birch (*Betula nigra*)—medium tree, good holder of water, attractive exfoliating bark, lovely golden fall color. *

Black willow (*Salix nigra*)—large shrub to tree, great at stabilizing stream banks, grows fast, lowers water temperature by casting shade. *

Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)—prefers moist soil, has great fall and winter interest, attracts songbirds. *

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)—prefers wet soil, has unique flowers, attracts dragonflies which eat mosquitoes. *

Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)—is tolerant of wet soils, has gorgeous vertically exfoliating bark and attractive white flowers. *

Switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*)—tolerant of part shade and moist soils, has deep roots making it great for soil stabilization, many cultivars have red or blue persistent foliage, seeds are good for wildlife.

Northern sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)—tolerant of shade and wet soils, great for stabilizing sandy soils, has attractive, persistent, droopy seed heads.

Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)—part sun to full shade, likes persistently moist soil, spreads rapidly and creates a unique groundcover. Great for transition from lawn to natural area.

Other native ferns (*Matteuccia*, *Osmunda* and *Adiantum*)—these ferns are tall and decorative.

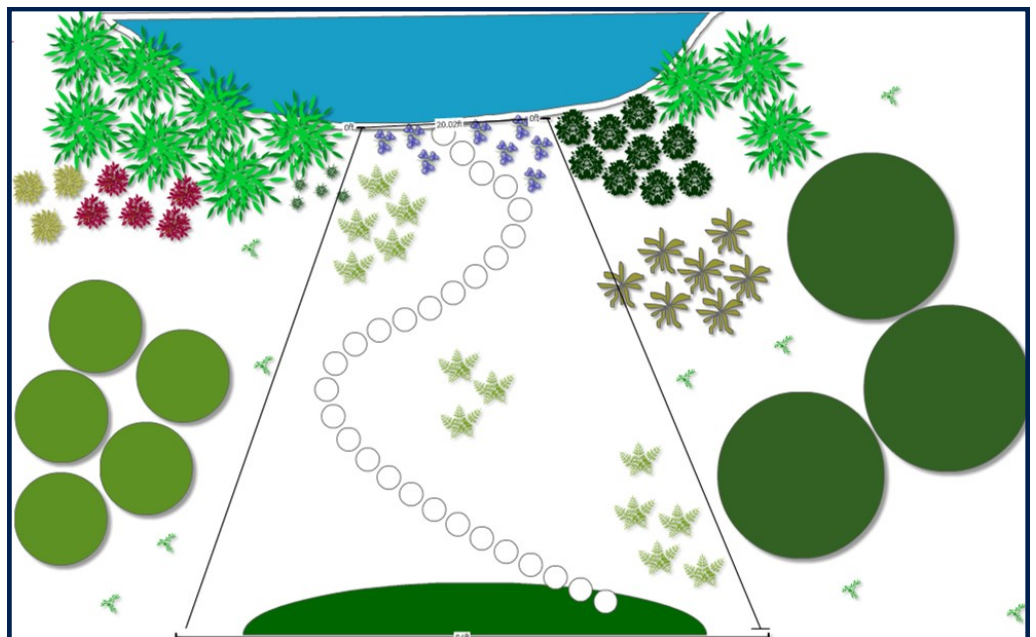
Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*)—spreads nicely, has lovely blue flowers, and tolerates standing water.

Trees					
No.	Quantity	Title	Width	Length	
1	3	Sycamore	18ft	18ft	
2	5	River birch	10ft	10ft	
Shrubs & Plants					
No.	Quantity	Title	Width	Length	
3	3	Switch grass	4ft	4ft	
4	10	Black Willow	10ft	10ft	
5	5	Red-osier Dogwood	3.92ft	3.91ft	
6	5	Northern sea oats	2ft	2ft	
7	9	Buttonbush	4ft	4ft	
8	7	ninebark	5ft	5ft	
9	10	sensitive fern	2.25ft	2.25ft	
10	13	Cinnamon, Interrupted, Royal or Maidenhair ferns	4.5ft	3.75ft	
Flowers					
No.	Quantity	Title	Width	Length	
11	8	Blue-flag iris	2.55ft	2.52ft	

On top: Key for plants used in figure. All trees and shrubs used in this plan are offered in our Annual Conservation Tree Seedling Sale. The ferns, grasses and wildflowers are available at many local nurseries.

On bottom: A basic 1/3 acre plan (~160' x 85') using 11 species of native trees, shrubs, ferns, wildflowers and grasses. Lines indicate view of stream and circles indicate a permeable path to the streambank.

* Plants followed by a star are available for purchase in Lake SWCD's Annual Conservation Tree Seedling Sale. For an order form see www.lakecountyohio.gov/soil.





Recycled Paper

FROM THE FARMER, TO YOUR TABLE

Support your local farmers by cooking a meal with local ingredients. This hardy German-inspired meal will warm up even the coldest winter day.

SPATCHCOCK ROAST CHICKEN WITH SPAETZLE AND BRAISED RED CABBAGE

SERVES 4

CHICKEN

1 whole chicken about 4 pounds
Ground black pepper and salt
1/2 teaspoon caraway seeds,
toasted and coarsely ground
olive oil (for drizzling)

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. To spatchcock the chicken cut out the backbone, and save for stock. Flip chicken, and open it like a book. Press firmly on breastbone to flatten. Season the chicken on both sides well with salt, pepper and caraway.

Place the chicken, skin side up, on a sheet tray fitted with a wire rack and drizzle it with olive oil. Place in the oven to roast for about 45 minutes, until the internal temperature reaches 160 degrees. Remove from the oven to rest for 10 minutes before cutting.

SPAETZLE AND BRAISED RED CABBAGE

5 medium sized potatoes, peeled and quartered
1/2 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon salt, to taste
1 local egg
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1 tablespoon chopped parsley
4 tablespoons of butter
2 slices local bacon, chopped
1/2 cup onion, diced
1 small head of red cabbage, shredded
1/2 c. local beer, a porter, stout, spiced or brown ale works best
1/2 c. apple cider
1 T. local honey
1 bay leaf
1/4 tsp caraway seeds
Ground black pepper and salt
1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
1 tablespoon butter

To make the spaetzle, boil the potatoes until tender. In a bowl, mash potatoes and let cool until warm. Turn mashed potatoes out onto a lightly floured surface. Add flour, egg, parsley, salt and nutmeg and knead until smooth. Using a ricer or large-holed cheese grater, push the dough through. Toss the spaetzle into boiling water. Remove them when they rise to the surface. Heat butter in a pan and fry the spaetzle till golden brown. Move to serving dish. For the cabbage, in the same pan, brown bacon. Add onions and sauté for 5 minutes. Add the cabbage and cook for 2-3 minutes. Pour in beer and cider to deglaze, add the spices and honey. Simmer on stove top for 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Once liquids are reduced by half add vinegar and simmer for another 5 minutes. Stir in butter and serve.

LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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JEFF HYRNE (2015), MADISON TWP., FISCAL AGENT

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Nursery Growers of Lake County Ohio
National Association of Conservation Districts
Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER: All Lake SWCD and USDA programs and services are available without regard to race, age, gender, national origin, political beliefs, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

The public is invited to attend Lake SWCD's monthly Board meetings, held the third Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm at 125 East Erie St., Painesville. Meeting announcements appear under the public agenda in the News-Herald and on the Lake SWCD website. Please call in advance to let us know you will be attending.